JULY 2014

KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

The Green Clan

Special Thanks to the Kickapoo Roads Department

I want to take this opportunity to truly thank the Kickapoo Roads Department for all the work they have provided the Kickapoo Environmental Office all these years. Just to name a few of the projects that they have been crucial in the completion: the abandoned well closures, sedimentation basins, cedar tree revetments, stream bank stabilizations, and rain garden projects to name a few.

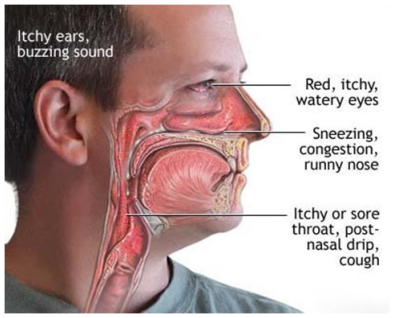
Their immense knowledge about this area, combined with their technical expertise is the main reason for the completion of all these projects on time and to perfection. The Kickapoo Environmental Office want to credit the Roads Department for all the successful projects that we were able to complete. In the future, they are planning to help us in building the composting pits, lagoon maintenance, and sedimentation ponds.

James Keo Jr., Everett Switch, James Simon, and Elwynn Thomas, thank you for all the support and we owe you a lot.

It's been a Good Month for Mold

Scott Weir, Air Quality Coordinator, at 785.486.2601 ext. 2

With the recent increase in rainfall and rising humidity levels, your environmental office has received several inquiries about mold problems. Molds produce spores and a variety of toxins that can ca use or contribute to asthma, allergies, and other health problems. Molds need water to grow. When water infiltrates the structure of houses and other buildings, mold and mildew will rapidly develop on materials that retain moisture. In fact, spores can grow into active mold in 24-48 hours when moisture is present. After storm damage or flooding, drywall, insulation and carpeting will support the growth of mold, which is accompanied by tell-tale "musty" odors. Kitchens, bathrooms and laundry areas with leaky drains or plumbing fixtures are also likely locations for mold growth.



Many people are especially concerned about "black mold" because it has received extensive news coverage. There are many species of mold, which come in many colors, and they all produce toxins. Musty odors and visible mold indicate that mold is present, and expensive testing is usually not needed.

The greatest deterrent to mold growth is removal of moisture. Fix the water problem, remove the food source, and you can keep your environment mold free. Since mold spores exist in the environment, the best course of action remains prevention of mold growth in living and working environments. It is recommended that indoor environments be kept clean, dry and mold free.

Here are some actions that can be taken to deal with an existing mold problem and prevent future problems:

- Identify and repair the water problem (such as a leaky roof, windows or plumbing).
- Remove and discard damaged porous materials such as sheetrock, carpeting and plywood.
- Wipe off visible mold then clean non-porous surfaces such as walls and floors with a mild soapy solution.
- Rinse and thoroughly dry the area, using fans and dehumidifiers to create maximum ventilation.
- Replace damaged building materials once the area is thoroughly dry.
- For a large amount of mold, it is recommended that a professional firm with trained personnel perform the repairs and clean-up.

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To prevent moisture problems which can lead to mold growth:

- Clean and upgrade guttering so water does not collect near or run down the foundation.
- Create a slope away from the foundation of at least one inch per foot.
- Keep the humidity level in the house between 40% and 60%.
- Use a dehumidifier during humid months if needed, especially in damp basements.
- Use an exhaust fan to move air from high moisture areas to the outside (not into ceilings or walls).
- Eliminate carpets in bathrooms and basements.

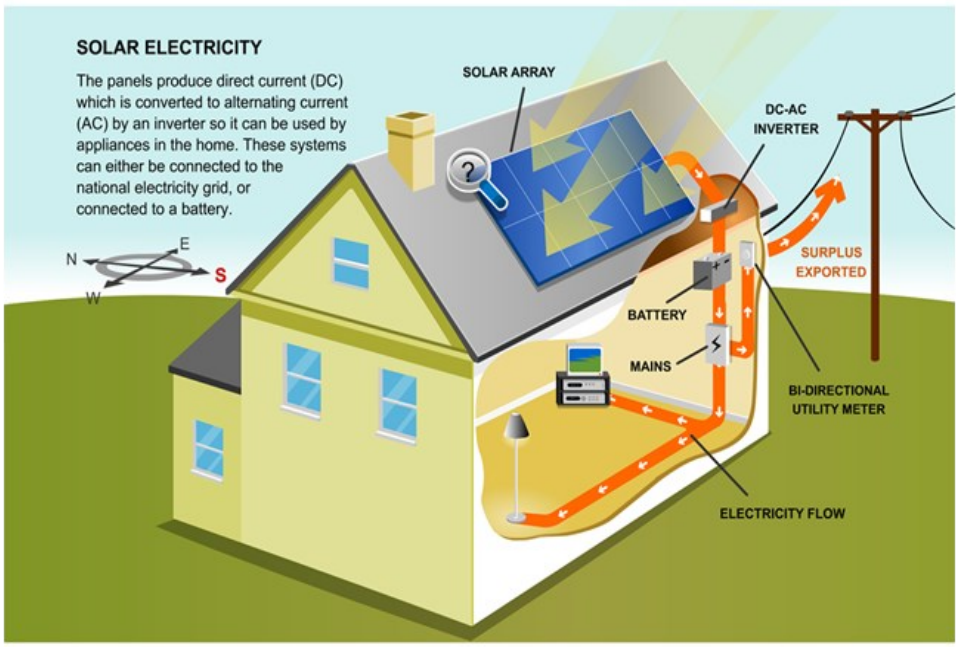
The Environmental Office does not perform mold remediation or clean-up, but we have a number of resources which may prove helpful if you experience a mold problem.

Community Solar Farms

Mike Kelley, Brownfields Coordinator mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov

Solar panels attached to a house are a clean, renewable, and environmentally friendly source of electrical power. Sometimes having solar panels attached to your house is not a viable option. Here in our area, in an effort to keep buildings cooler in the summer, many of them are heavily shaded by trees, or otherwise built to be out of direct sunlight. As could be imagined, a lack of direct sunlight makes getting energy from solar panels almost impossible.

An approach, which was first used in Colorado, and is now becoming more popular in other states, is a share or community approach to solar panels. In this approach, a group of individuals, a municipality, or some other interested organization takes a piece of unused or underutilized land and builds multiple solar panels on it. Others are then allowed to purchase or lease some of the solar panels without the added burden of installation. In addition to the environmentally friendly energy which is produced, users also make some money if the electric utility buys back any excess electricity.



The upfront cost can be a little intimidating; the cost of solar panels can run from $500 to $2000 dollars per panel. With proper maintenance, panels can have a lifespan of about 30 years. Depending on how much a person pays for electricity, the overall monthly savings can pay for a project such as this in a matter of years.

UP COMING EVENTS!

Summer Community Clean UP including Hazardous Wastes

Monday, July 14	:	**Site 5, 6, and 7**
Tuesday, July 15	:	**Village 1, Village 2, and Seniors**
Wednesday, July 16	:	**Site 1 & 2 and Surrounding Area**
Thursday, July 17	:	**Village 3 & 4; Redbird Lane and K20 Residents**
Friday, July 18	:	**Final Clean UP and the Tribal Departments**

Kickapoo Environmental Office

ktik-nsn.gov/kickapooenvironmentalprotection.htm

Phone: 785-486-2601

Working Together for a Better Community!